Statement

The Circle-wise expansion/modernisation programme of the Telephones Exchanges proposed in the Northern States during 1992—97.

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Capacity		
		Net Commissioning	Replacement Automatisaton	Telephone Connection
1.	Himachal Pradesh	71110	25410	56400
2.	Haryana	290612	51884	230600
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	53214	8910	42300
4.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	499997	92675	396700
5.	Rajasthan	417947	103561	331600
6.	Uttar Pradesh	530707	134609	421000
7.	Delhi M.T.N.L.	1141800	31300	970000

All manual exchanges, life expired telecom. equipment and old strowger type MAX. III and Line Finder type MAX. II exchanges are to be replaced during 8th Five Year Plan as part of the modernisation programme.

Tenders for the purchase of telephone Exchanges

54. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications has decided to purchase telephone exchanges and tenders have been called for the same;

(b) whether validation of prototype exchange offered by various companies has been unduly delayed;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government to finalise the selection of technology and purchase thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. There has been some delay.

(c) The validation is done as and when the various tests are offered by the manufacturers. There has been delays in offering of tests by the manufacturers.

(d) The selection of technology and purchase thereof is related to completion of validation.

Release of special stamps

55. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for bringing out/release of special stamps during the current year;

(b) whether if so, what are the details thereof, particularly; for proposals from Maharashtra and by when the decision is likely to be taken;

(c) whether the number of Non-official Postal Committees under the Postal Department their composition and functioning and how many of them are to be reconstituted during the current year; and